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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Tab 26

State Department review completed

25 SEP 1948

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~~GENERAL~~

1. Possible Soviet boycott of UN discussion of Berlin--US Embassy Moscow believes it possible that the Soviet bloc may boycott all "unpalatable issues" in the UN General Assembly. The Embassy further believes that the Soviet and Ukrainian delegations may refuse to discuss Berlin or German problems in the Security Council. The Embassy considers, however, that a formal withdrawal of the Soviet bloc from the UN is unlikely because the UN could then develop into an alliance of non-Soviet nations.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in Embassy Moscow's analysis of Kremlin intentions regarding the UN. Withdrawal from the UN would deprive the Soviet bloc of an excellent propaganda sounding board and would place the guilt for splitting the UN on the USSR.)

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~~EUROPE~~

2. ITALY: Italian position on colonial problem--US Embassy Rome has learned from the Italian Foreign Office that the Italian Government is proposing to each UN member that the UN General Assembly should return Italian Somaliland to Italian trusteeship now and postpone decision on the disposition of the other former Italian colonies. The Italian Government reportedly believes this course of action is desirable because four-power agreement had previously been reached on Somaliland's return to Italy and because such action is the most favorable that Italy could expect at the present time.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that Italy's position is influenced especially by fear of adverse Italian public reaction to: (a) the loss of all its former colonies, possibly

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through General Assembly approval of a direct UN trusteeship (as proposed by the USSR), or (b) postponement of UN decision on all three colonies.)

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